Setting-up of radio station by Andhra Pradesh

3559. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether after setting up of its own television channel devoted to development, the Andhra Pradesh Government is planning to tie-up with a US company to set-up its own radio broadcasting station;

(b) if so, whether the US based World Space Satellite Inc. has agreed to help Andhra Pradesh put up its own radio station and has also agreed to provide free service for the first six months; and

(c) if so, whether Government have allowed them to do so?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Broadcasting is a subject included in the Union List under the Constitution. Therefore, as per the extant policy, State Governments are not permitted to set up TV Channels or Broadcasting Stations. The Central Government has not received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to set up a Radio station in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has, however, informed that they are examining a proposal to utilize the existing World Space Capacity for transmission of its programmes on Education, Development, Communications and Disaster Management, to rural and remote areas of the State. The proposal envisages provision of channel capacity by World Space, on a trial basis, on the North-West beam of its Asia Star satellite.

Vacancies of News Readers and Programme Announcers

†3560. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of Doordarshan and All India Radio stations in the country;

(b) the number of posts of News Readers and Programme Announcers lying vacant, Station-wise; and

(c) whether rates of honorarium being given for the programmes presented by local people at these stations is proposed to be increased by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that at

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.